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STATION WRC TV  
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SUBJECT Segment III: Inside the CIA

DAVID BRINKLEY: The Central Intelligence Agency feels it has been ground down like a nutmeg: its Director fired, its secrets exposed, its wrongdoing splashed across the press, and now hundreds of its staff members fired. The CIA is, therefore, said to be demoralized and uncertain of its future.

Ford Rowan, looking inside the CIA, reports on what he has found.

FORD ROWAN: This is the nerve center of the Central Intelligence Agency, an agency nervous about its future. This is where the CIA keeps track of what's going on in the world. Reports from America's spies, translations of foreign radio broadcasts, and cables from military and diplomatic posts flown here, to the CIA's Operations Center.

NBC News was permitted to look behind the locked doors at a crucial time of change in the CIA. We found turmoil.

In the wake of disclosures about what it has done -- domestic spying, drug experiments, assassination plots -- there's new uncertainty about where the agency is headed.

Much of the unhappiness stems from the "Halloween Massacre." That's what CIA officers are calling the mass firings of October 31st. Some 212 clandestine operatives were fired. In all, 820 positions are being cut by Director Stansfield Turner.

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: We've got more fat, we've got more overhead than we can afford. And I want to be sure that every employee out there is fully challenged and has a really demanding job. And that's what we're getting down to: lean and